(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

STATEMENT - II

Concessions to the relatives/escorts of the handicapped

1. *Travel concessions* :

Travel by Rail : Escorts accompanying the blind/orthopaedically and mentally handicapped persons are eligible for 75% concession in the basic fare. This is in addition to the concession for the disabled persons.

2. *Educational Allowance* : Reimbursement of tuition fees in respect of physically handicapped and mentally retarded children of the Central Govt. employees has been enhanced to Rs. 50/-.

3. *Income Tax Exemption* :

Deduction in respect of medical treatment of handicapped dependants

An assessee who has incurred any expenditure for medical treatment (including nursing) of any handicapped dependant suffering from permanent disability (including blindness/mental retardation) having the effect of reducing his capacity for normal work, is eligible for deduction of Rs. 20,000/- from his income.

Alternatives to Prison Sentences

774. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether conference of the Chief Ministers held at New Delhi on November 13, 1992 had recommended to explore the alternatives to prison sentences;

(b) if so, whether the Government had since then explored alternatives to prison sentences.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government has been advising the State Governments on improving various facets of Jail Administration including that of exploring alternatives to imprisonment. The Government is also interacting with the Law Commission on a proposal to amend section 53 of the IPC to provide for various alternatives to imprisonment such as community service.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Horticulture Fisheries etc.

775. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes implemented in the fields of horticulture, fruits, plantation, fishery etc in Gujarat State particularly in the tribal dominated areas during the last three years till date;

(b) the funds made available by the Government for these schemes during the said period, separately;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or any such research institutes has evolved any new technique for these areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to make the people aware about the same and to encourage them to undertake schemes in the said fields?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating the name of schemes and amount provided to the Government of Gujarat during the last three years is attached.

(c) and (d). Technologies have been development/ evolved for production of fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants, etc. High-yielding selections in datepalm and banana have been made for further multiplication and distribution to farmers to improve productivity and quality. Improved varieties of fruits like ber, pomegranate, datepalm, aonla etc. have been introduced and popularised. Technology for raising fruit plantations on drylands under semi-arid conditions of Gujarat have been evolved and demonstrated by the Central Horticulture Experiment station at Godhra alongwith techniques to develop degraded land through horti-past-oral systems suitable for these soils. A large number of improved varieties of medicinal plants have been evolved along with package of practices suitable to Gujarat.

2. Use of drip irrigation for horticultural crops has been standardised for banana, lime, mango, etc and a few vegetable crops. Similarly, technology for the use of greenhouses for production of off-season vegetables has also been developed.

3. Under the fisheries sector, the following activities have been undertaken :

(i) Conducted detailed studies on various reservoirs on Narmada and formulated strategies for management of fisheries conservation of changing eco-system of the river.

(ii) Developed pre-processing procedures and frozen storage charactaristics for import varieties of fishes of Saurashtra Coast to

enhance the value of the fish/fish product of domestic and export marketing.

(iii) Developed management strategies for optimum exploitation of marine fish stock after detailed assessment of the population dynamics of the commercially important marine fisheries resources of Gujarat Coast.

4. Central Government is providing assistance for demonstrations, trainings and for publishing of package of practices for disseminating the new technologies.

STATEMENT

Details of Central Assistance Provided to Gujarat State during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Central Assistance Released		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
A. Fisheries				
1	Minor Fishery Harbours	109.635	109.89	291.68
2.	Freshwater Aquaculture	17.00	17.00	-
3.	Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development	36.16	6.00	6.00
4.	Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries	233.00	361.76	323.24
5.	Welfare of Fishermen	-	-	67.02
6.	Strengthening of Inland Fish Marketing.	-	11.00	-
7.	Inland Fisheries Statistics	2.18	3.50	4.00
8.	Training and Extension	-	-	1.00
Horticulture				
1.	Development of Commercial Floriculture	1.00	0.65	7.50
2.	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	-	-	1.05
3.	Development of Tropical Arid and Temporated Foods	60.72	40.00	-
4.	Development of Spices	25.46	22.00	37.85
5.	Development of Vegetables	12.99	03.13	06.80
6.	Use of Plastics in Agriculture	103.12	280.00	-
7.	Development of Betelvine	-	01.25	01.25

Accounting System in Super Bazar

776. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar has since been able to evaluate the usefulness of the decentralised accounting systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decentralised accounting system has only added to the miseries of the suppliers in getting their payments on time rather than helping them; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to revert back to the old system?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been reported by the Super Bazar that decentralisation of accounting system was introduced for better administrative control, monitoring of sales, reduction of expenses and timely payment to suppliers. This has helped them in this regard.

(c) Super Bazar has issued instructions to its Regional Distribution Centres (RDCs), Purchase Section